



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

District of Summerland – March 19, 2024

Committee of the Whole – Council received a comprehensive briefing on changes to the 2024 BC Building Code followed by an update on the forthcoming zoning bylaw changes necessary to align with provincial direction in bill 44 and bill 35, pertaining to residential development and short-term rentals.

Delegation – Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen – Representatives from the organization presented a snapshot of their work in the region, and specifically the projects that have been funded within Summerland, which totaled more than \$50,000 in 2023 alone.

Responsible Liquor Consumption in Public Places - In 2023 Council directed staff to proceed with a three-month pilot to permit open liquor on Summerland’s main beaches. The Chamber of Commerce has requested the program continue given its overall success. Council heard that there were very few concerns or complaints, and staff recommended that it continue again in 2024. Upon further deliberation Council instructed staff to proceed with the program again but augmenting the period to April through September, to ensure that local residents can enjoy this program during the shoulder seasons as well.

Route 30 Free Fare Survey Results and Ridership Update – Staff reported back on the results of the free fare for the Route 30 bus line for Summerland residents. Council heard that the program has been a great success, which was further backed up by more than 100 surveys received from the public. Ridership jumped 34% during the program with many residents reporting cost savings and appreciation with the program. Council provided direction to continue to free fare program for residents on Route 30, which also supports one of Council’s strategic priorities to support affordability in the community.

Development Application Procedure Bylaw Changes – Recent provincial legislative changes (i.e. bill 44) now prohibit any public hearing for a zoning bylaw amendment where 1) there is an OCP in effect 2) it is consistent with that OCP 3) the sole purpose is to permit residential development and where 4) the residential component of the development is at least 50%. On February 27 Council directed that staff prepare an amendment to the bylaw to retain the requirement for signage regarding rezoning where there is no public hearing to be held. Council gave the first three readings to the amended bylaw.

Note: These highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council proceedings. The summary is not inclusive of all agenda items. For a detailed account of the full agenda, including staff reports, other supporting documents and official meeting minutes, please consult the District of Summerland website at <https://www.summerland.ca> or contact Corporate Services at 250-404-4037